

I Need, Give Me, Amen!"

Text: Luke 11:1,

At it came to pass that, as He was praying ~~at~~ a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

who
A little boy had been taught to pray, found himself sliding down a roof and apparently to a serious fall. As he slid toward the edge he prayed, "O Lord, save me! Save me! Just then a nail protruding through the roof at the edge caught his pants and he hung at the edge, stopped just in time. He quickly added a postscript to the prayer; "Never mind Lord,; a nail has done it for you."

Perhaps many people come to God in this fashion, if they come to Him at all. The lure of being self-sufficient is always with us, and we want to handle things in our own way. There are times when I believe I know how God must feel about us, when I encounter someone and their world has collapsed around them, and it is too late to do anything about it. And they say to me, "I didn't want to bother you because I know you are busy." Yes, ~~God is busy~~ ~~just like~~ a pastor is busy, but he is there to help in times of need and he can only do that if called upon to help. God is busy in all of the world, but He is never too busy to hear our prayers. So we must cultivate the habit of coming to Him at all times, and not just when we are in serious trouble. This is what Paul was saying when he told the Thessalonians to pray without ceasing. He meant to continually come to God.

In our scripture this morning we read the very familiar giving of the Lord's Prayer. Jesus gave this prayer to His disciples because they came to Him and asked Him to teach them how to pray as John had taught his disciples.

Last week I said that during this sermon I would teach you how to pray. Now you must first of all understand that I do not profess to know all there is to know about prayer. There are many times when I know that my prayer life is not completely adequate. There are many times when I find it difficult to pray. So I must add that I am just like any of you, groping for the way,

Many times. So please accept this guide and outline not as a final authority, but as a means to increase our effectiveness as a people of God, striving to come to Him in prayer.

Ironically, the scripture for this morning was also the scripture for the adult Sunday school class. I knew nothing of this and did not learn of it until sometime Thursday afternoon. I believe that we can see in this once again, that God is leading us and trying to get His message across to us concerning prayer. So therefore, I believe it is more than a coincidence, but it is the leading of God.

TEXT: 8 THEN JS CAME L'S PRAYER.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The Lord's Prayer is considered to be the perfect prayer, not only because it was given by Js, but because it contains all of the elements needed in any prayer. We are not going to analyze it verse by verse, perhaps we can do this at a later time in a series of sermons.

Let us suffice it to say that the Lord's Prayer contains the following outline. First: it has a salutation or introduction which is made up of praise and thanksgiving. This all prayers should have. We acknowledge that God is our Creator. He is not the old pal that we may have at the mill or plant or living next door. He is not "The man upstairs", or any of the other common names and titles we try to place upon Him. Nor is He the old trusted friend that we can call up and say, "Joe, I need your car, give me the keys, so long. But instead, He is Father, He is Almighty, He is God.

Second: We do not come to God and demand action as we would seek service on our car or television. We come to Him acknowledging that it is to be done in His way. Thus we would use the second point as being one of submission to His will for us.

Next: we come to Him with our petitions. This means we ask for whatever it is we have need. We lay our problems before Him seeking that He will give us the solutions that are needed. Here again we do not come and tell God how to do it. We respectfully seek His answer in whatever way He wants to answer.

Next: we need to come to Him in confession. There is no sense in us fooling ourselves, and trying to fool God by believing that we are without sin. We commit sins each day and we need to ask for God's forgiveness for them.

Anyone who refuses to acknowledge that he is a sinner, need not bother to pray, for God is not going to answer the prayers of someone who tries to put himself on the same plane with God.

And then finally: we need to ask for God's guidance to withstand the temptations of the world. To be able to withstand the wiles of the devil, and then to thank God for His answers to our prayers.

So basically the outline for prayer is:

1. Introduction or Salutation which includes praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Obedience to His will, not ours.
3. Our needs, or our petitions.
4. Confession of our sins
5. Guidance in all of life
6. Thanks for the answers to our prayers and praise to Him again in Jesus name.

Now all of our prayers do not always need to be in this specific order, nor do they need to contain all of these elements. But we should learn to formulate our prayers so they correspond to this type of outline.

God is not going to judge us with an A,B, or C, if we use or do not use all of these points. But what He wants is for us to come to Him, and to seek Him, not only when we have needs, but in our times of joy and happiness as well.

the trees ~~which~~ which provided the wood. Thanks for the men who cut the trees, for the mill that planed and sawed them. For the factory that processed the wood and built the pews and so on. You see, it is simple little things for which we need to be thankful, and we need not always look for the big things to thank God for.

Point three: we must ask what we want to ask for. We do not come and say, "I Need, Give Me, Amen." Instead we ask that if it be possible that God grant our request.

And then we need to thank God for hearing our prayer and for acting upon it. Now this is the basic formula for prayer. Not all prayers need to contain all of these ingredients, all of the time. But generally we should use all of them in a prayer.

Let me give them again: Praise to God, thanksgiving to Him for many different things, our needs or petitions, and our gratitude for the answer.

~~It is~~ ~~we~~ read ~~in~~ in our scripture for this morning ~~we see~~ that Jesus points out that we should pray, and pray and continue to pray for something of which we have need. He uses the illustration of a man being visited by a friend, who has nothing in the house for the friend to eat. So he awakens another friend to give him some bread. The aroused friend will not give bread because he is asked, but because of the other friend's need. This is how God answers our prayers. He gives us not always because we need, but because we ask and express that need. This also amplifies what Jesus said about God knowing what we need even before we ask, but the responsibility rests with us to make that desire known to God and then He will act upon it.

Jesus also points out that we are to, "Aske etc. vs9)

That means we are to come to God and to pray, pray, pray. We are to continue seeking, and knocking, and asking. This is the secret of prayer. ~~It is~~ It is not merely coming to God once and asking His help and when we do not get our desired answer to forget about it. But rather, it is to pray and to continue praying about the matter until we get an answer one way or another.

Now all of this hopefully will give each of us perhaps a new insight on prayer. What we need to do now is to begin to practice it. I would ask any of you who have never indulged in much prayer to make a habit of it by beginning today. We should take a few moments upon awaking to thank God for the rest of the night, and for bringing us to a new day, and to ask Him to lead us through the day. We should thank God for our food at breakfast, lunch and supper. We need not make a big display of this in public. It can be done quietly and privately as well as openly.

We need to ask God's help as we go about our appointed tasks at different intervals during the day. Too often people associate prayer with speaking out loud with hands folded, looking up to heaven. This is one way to pray, but we can be praying to God in the midst of a whole mob of people, without ever bowing our heads. We can pray on a bus, a train, a plane, a boat, or wherever we are and at anytime.

Let us each one here begin to pray for the needs of this church, and that means for the minister as well, because he sure needs your prayers many, many times. Let us begin to pray for each other as members of this congregation. And let us reach out in love toward each other and become a much closer knit family of God here at St. Paul's. I would like to see some prayer groups organized in this church, meeting regularly to pray for our needs here. If we would do this, I know that we would see a mighty outpouring of God's spirit in our lives and in this community. Let's pray for help in this direction. In fact it would be a good idea if we each were to sit down and make a list of the things we need to pray about ^{& people} ~~xxxxxxx~~ and for. Then we need to make it a daily practice to take this list and pray to God about it. We never know the far reaching effects that prayer may bring about.

Dr. Norman Hall a minister once stood on the summit of a mountain called Awden which is approximately 3560 feet above sea level.

(Illustration of sunrise & following events.)

This I believe shows how we underestimate the power of prayer. Let us begin today to come to God more than we have in the past. Let us come to God and

This is the day which the Lord has made, let us worship and be glad in it.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 26, 1975

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR

MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST

MRS. CYNDIE SYBERT, YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR

CHRIS CAMPBELL, MARY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "PSALM VIII" BAYLOR
"PRAYER IN THE CHAPEL" MACDONALD

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 4 "COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING"

*ACSCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST HOLY GOD, WHO DOES SEARCH AND PURIFY THE HEARTS OF MEN: GRANT US TO KNOW OURSELVES AS WE TRULY ARE; OPEN TO US THE CONDICTION OF OUR SOULS; GIVE US PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS FOR OUR SINS; ENABLE US WITH STEADFAST RESOLUTION TO AMEND OUR LIVES; DELIVER US FROM CAPTIVITY TO FALSE THOUGHTS AND EVIL HABITS; THAT WITH UNITY OF MIND AND PEACE OF CONSCIENCE WE MAY HAVE OUR FULL RECONCILIATION WITH YOU, AND BE OF THE BLESSED COMPANY OF ALL YOUR FAITHFUL PEOPLE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE
Bibles?

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: LUKE 11: 1-13 Bible readings

HYMN No. 228 "BEHOLD US, LORD" Ex. 26, 27, 28

*STATEMENT OF FAITH (FRONT OF HYMNAL) Extras in back
get ready for
Feb.

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "ARISE"

FRANCK

> INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND TEACHERS OF CHURCH SCHOOL.

ANTHEM: "KUM BA YAH"

YOUTH CHOIR

SERMON: "I NEED, GIVE ME, AMEN!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 226 "DEAR LORD AND FATHER"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "REGRESSIONAL IN B" SCHULER

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
MRS. GILBERT HEGINGOTHAM IN MEMORY OF HER "HUSBAND".

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *DAVID CURTIS, ROBBIE

VINROE, ROBERT DELLEN, BRIAN PFABE AND STEVE SMITH.

DEACON AND MRS. DAVID CURTIS WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL

AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. JUDY MASSBART

AND MRS. NORMA FENCIL.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 267. HOME NOW

> HOSPITALIZED: MRS. EMMA HEGINGOTHAM, MRS. DOROTHY

NICHOLAS, MRS. TREBA NICHOLAS, HAROLD SANDBACH. - HOME

MRS. DEBRA BIER, 207 GREENVIEW DRIVE TOOK HER NEW

BABY BOY HOME THIS WEEK.

MRS. TREBA NICHOLAS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION

FOR THE FLOWERS AND CARDS AND WELL WISHES.

> TODAY - 5:30 - CONGREGATIONAL DINNER AND MEETING -

ALL CHILDREN 10 AND ABOVE ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN FOR

THE MEETING - YOUNGER ONES WILL BE SHOWN A FILM.

CHET STAUFFER - M.C.; MIKE NAZARUK WILL SHOW FILM ON

PAST ACTIVITIES OF ST. PAUL'S. PLEASE BRING SUFFICIENT

FOOD FOR YOUR FAMILY - TURKEY TYPE MEAL.

> WE NEED MEN TO SET UP TABLES AND CHAIRS IN THE UNDER-

CROFT AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE.

TUES. - FEB. 11 - A BEELINE FASHION SHOW WILL BE HELD

IN THE UNDERCROFT AT 7:30 P.M. EVERYONE IS WELCOME

AND IS ENCOURAGED TO BRING A GUEST. A \$50. OUTFIT

WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PERSON WITH HIGHEST SALES OVER

\$100. Doorprizes and a surprise fashion show included.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SWEETHEART DINNER DANCE -

FEB. 15 - SATURDAY, AT THE SAXONBURG FIRE HALL.

SEE THE WAYNE DEANERS OR BEA IN THE OFFICE.

TUESDAY - 7:00 - BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

TUESDAY - 7:30 - PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

DON'T FORGET TONIGHT - 5:30 - YEARBOOKS ARE READY THEN.

Welcome visitors: greet one another.

All pra no need b this complete
 But shud try formulate prs this way
 G no judge ABC no use all pts
 But want us cum 2 Him, all times/places
 Js t out scrip, must pr/pr/pr that which needed
 Illus men visit by friend, noting 2 eat,
 go other friend get up ask bread
 arced fr no give bread Bcause asked, but Bcause
 of other friends need.
 This how G ans pr,
 not Bcause we need, but Bcause we express need
 Js also say, Vs 9 (read)
 Cum 2 G, In/pr/pr/
 continue seek/knock/ask/
 this secret of pr
 Not merely cum 2 G ask 1nce/no ans/4get it
 But 2 pray/cont pray until get ans.
 Now all this hopefully give ea insite how 2 pr
 what need now 2 practice it
 Would ask any never indulge much pr, 2 make habit
 of it, beg 2day
 Upon arising thank G for nites blessings/ new day
 pr meals/bus/car/work etc/
 Should make prayer lists, this B needs this church
 peop here/friends/nei hbors/pastor
 Jould like C pr groups start here,
 perhaps would C outpour G spirit our lives & comm.
 (Illustration Dr. Norman Hall & prayer)
 This examp we underestimate pr & power of it
 Let us Bgin 2day cum 2 G mor than in past
 " cum 2 G & G wat great things He can do if
 we trust Him, & Blive He giv what asked
 Js said, "WHATEVER YE SHALL ASK THE FATHER IN MY
NAME, HE WILL GIVE YE IT."
 And again He said, "WHATSOEVER THINGS YE DESIRE, WHEN
YE SAY, BELIEVE THAT YE RECEIVE THEM, AND YE SHALL
HAVE THEM."
 This must do as cong, & individ
 past yr seen many wonderful things happen this Ch
 Only explan G at work here.
 But only seen beginning what G can do
 Must come 2 Him in faith/Blive He will answer,
 & all continue 2 pray/pray/pray.
 No longer can prs B "I NEED, GIVE ME, AMEN"
 but rather, they must come from loving/dedicated
 peop/ dedicated hearts, of cong of God's people.

"I Need, Give Me, Amen!"

Text: Luke 11:1,
 And it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain
 place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said to
 Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught
 His disciples."

Scripture Luke 11:1-13

(Illustration little boy, prayers & nail)
 Perhaps many peop pray this way,
 maybe sum us do
 We self-suffic & no need G only when bad troub
 I feel I sumtime know how G feel, when peop cum 2
 me when 2 late, & say, "I no want bother U, U busy.
 It true pastor busy, but his job help peop
 G busy all world, but not 2 busy hear prays of pe
 Must cultivate habit pray G all times, places
 this P say Thessa, "pray without ceasing"
 Last wk said, teach pray this wk
 Must 1st under I no know all 2 know prayer
 My pr. life sumtimes not adequate wither
 Many times diffi 2 pray
 I like U, groping 4 way many times.
 These accep guide/outline not as final auth.
 but as means increase effectiv as peop G striv
 cum 2 Him in pr.

Ironically our scrip/SS lesson same,
 G tell us sumthing bout prayer, more than coincid.
 (Read Text)

Then Js gave I's Pr. 2 discips
 1. consider B perfec pr./contain elem need in p
 Out ne: 1. Salu/intro, prais thanksgiv
 We ackn G creator. Not pal/buddy dn street,
 no call up, "Joe, I need car, give me keys, so lon
 HE FATHER, ALMIGHTY, GOD

2. Ackn, He do thing His way,
 submission 2 His will 4 us.
3. Petitions, we ask 4 needs, lay prebs B4 Him
 respectful seek His answer how He want answer
4. Confession, all sinners/no sin, no need pray
 commit sins ea day
5. God's guidance, against wiles devil, evils world
6. Thanks 2 G 4 answers pr

Of line again:
 1. praise/thanksgiv, 2. Obed His will, not ours,
 3. needs/petitions, 4. conf. 5, guidance all life
 6. thanks answers pr N JS NAME

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.